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October 15, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 161 – September 2020

Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

(RI/FS)

**CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009** 

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

# (a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

#### **Meetings/Conference Calls**

None.

## Correspondence

- On September 4, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) provided comments to CPG on Appendix D and H of the revised Draft Final Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy Feasibility Study (IR FS).
- On September 8, Region 2 forwarded to CPG a request from the United States Department of Justice (US DOJ) to provide a list of archived specimens from the 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling Program.
- On September 9, CPG provided a list of archived specimens from the 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling Program to Region 2.
- On September 15, CPG delivered the August Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On September 16, CPG provided responses to specific comments on the revised Draft Final Upper 9-Mile IR FS to Region 2 and requested schedule information for receiving



Ms. D. Salkie LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 161 - September 2020 October 15, 2020 Page 2 of 3

> additional comments from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

- On September 21, CPG provided main text and figures for the Draft 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling Data Summary Report to Region 2 and uploaded the entire report including appendices to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On September 21, Region 2 responded to CPG responses provided on September 16 on the revised Draft Final Upper 9-Mile IR FS comments and provided NJDEP comments on Appendix H.
- On September 24, CPG provided suggested changes to Region 2's proposed text for the revised Draft Final Upper 9-Mile IR FS to Region 2.
- On September 29, Region 2 provided responses to CPG's suggested edits provided September 24 on the revised Draft Final Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On September 30, CPG uploaded latest revision to the main text, figures, tables and specific Appendices of the revised Draft Final Upper 9-Mile IR FS to the EPA's SharePoint site.

## Work

- CPG continued reviewing and preparing responses to Region 2 comments on the revised Draft Final Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG completed analysis of 2020 Current Conditions Small Volume Chemical Water Column Monitoring (SV CWCM) samples and continued validation of the sample data.
- CPG completed preparation of the draft data summary report for 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling program.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.

## (b) Results of Sampling and Tests

 On September 15, CPG uploaded Electronic Data Deliverables (EDDs) of validated data from the December 2019 Current Conditions SV CWCM event and preliminary data from the fourth and fifth 2020 servicing of the Current Conditions Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) moorings to the EPA SharePoint site.

## (c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will respond to comments on the revised Draft Final Upper 9-Mile IR FS delivered to Region 2 on September 30.
- CPG will respond to comments on the Draft 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling Data Summary Report.
- CPG will continue data validation for the 2020 Current Conditions SV CWCM sampling events.

Ms. D. Salkie LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 161 – September 2020 October 15, 2020 Page 3 of 3

- CPG will continue preparing data summary reports for the 2020 Current Conditions surface water monitoring program.
- (d) <u>Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.</u>
  - Work/travel safety restrictions associated with COVID-19 have impacted and delayed 2020 Current Conditions Biota Sampling field work

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard Potter

**CPG Project Coordinator** 

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel Lisa Baron, USACE Clay Stern, USFWS Reyhan Mehran, NOAA Jay Nickerson, NJDEP Beth Franklin, USACE Laura Kelmar, AECOM David Marabello, CDM-Smith Scott Kirchner, CDM-Smith

